

Written Testimony concerning funding for implementation of Early Voting

February 16, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative Nuccio and Members of the Committee,

As a long-time voter and voting advocate I write today to urge you to amend or oppose HB 06659 since Governor Lamont's budget did not include funding for implementing an Early Voting program. Early Voting must be a *funded* mandate for towns to implement effective processes for in-person voting before Election Day. We also need funding to educate voters about the days, hours, and locations of early voting. If we want the Early Voting program to work well and consistently across all towns, it must allow all voters expanded and safe access and the knowledge of how to do so.

I have spoken with many people who are proud to exercise the right to vote but have difficulty getting to the polls on one Election Day. They would very much appreciate the option to have Early Voting so they know their vote will always be counted.

Connecticut voters have made it clear that we want to enhance democracy in our state and now it is up to the General Assembly to fully fund the development and implementation of the Early Voting program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily Hofstatter
West Hartford, CT